

**Claims**

What is claimed is:

1           1.       An information processing system, comprising:  
2   a first computing device for:  
3       through a first network, receiving an information packet originating from a client;  
4       in response to the information packet, identifying a computing device that stores a data  
5   structure of a connection with the client;  
6       if the identified computing device is the first computing device, performing an operation  
7   in response to the information packet; and  
8       if the identified computing device is a second computing device, outputting the  
9   information packet through a second network to the second computing device for performing the  
10   operation in response to the information packet, such that the output information packet bypasses  
11   the first network.

1           2.       The system of Claim 1 wherein the first computing device is a network interface  
2   card.

1           3.       The system of Claim 1 wherein the first network includes a local area network.

1           4.       The system of Claim 3 wherein the local area network is coupled through a global  
2   computer network to the client.

1           5.       The system of Claim 1 wherein the second network includes a local area network.

1           6.       The system of Claim 1 wherein the first network includes a first local area  
2   network, and wherein the second network includes a second local area network.

1           7.       The system of Claim 1 wherein the operation is part of a software application.

1           8.       The system of Claim 7 wherein the software application is a socket application.

1           9.     The system of Claim 1 wherein the information packet is addressed by the client to  
2 the first computing device, and wherein the first computing device is for receiving the information  
3 packet through the first network in response to the addressing.

1           10.    The system of Claim 1 wherein the operation includes outputting a response packet  
2 to the client, and wherein the first computing device is for:

3           if the identified computing device is the second computing device, outputting the  
4 information packet through the second network to the second computing device for outputting the  
5 response packet to the client, such that the output response packet bypasses the first computing  
6 device.

1           11.     An information processing system, comprising:  
2     a first computing device for:  
3           through a first local area network, receiving an information packet from a global computer  
4     network; and  
5           through a second local area network, in response to at least the information packet and a  
6     state of at least one of the first computing device and a second computing device, selectively  
7     outputting the information packet to the second computing device, such that the output  
8     information packet bypasses the first local area network.

1           12.     The system of Claim 11 wherein the first computing device is a network interface  
2     card.

1           13.     The system of Claim 11 wherein the information packet originates from a client,  
2     and wherein the first local area network is coupled through the global computer network to the  
3     client.

1           14.     The system of Claim 11 wherein the information packet originates from a client,  
2     and wherein the first computing device is for:  
3           through the second local area network, in response to at least the information packet and  
4     the state, selectively outputting the information packet to the second computing device by  
5     outputting an encapsulated information packet to the second computing device, the encapsulated  
6     information packet including the information packet and a reference to a data structure of a  
7     connection with the client.

1           15.     The system of Claim 14 wherein the reference is included within a single header of  
2     the encapsulated information packet.

1           16.     The system of Claim 11 wherein the first computing device is for:  
2           through the second local area network, in response to at least the information packet and  
3     the state, selectively outputting the information packet to the second computing device for  
4     performing an operation in response to the information packet.

1           17.     The system of Claim 16 wherein the information packet originates from a client,  
2     wherein the first local area network is coupled through the global computer network to the client,  
3     wherein the operation includes outputting a response packet to the client through the first local  
4     area network and the global computer network, and wherein the first computing device is for:  
5           through the second local area network, in response to at least the information packet and  
6     the state, selectively outputting the information packet to the second computing device for  
7     outputting the response packet to the client, such that the output response packet bypasses the first  
8     computing device.

1           18.     The system of Claim 16 wherein the operation is part of a software application.

1           19.     The system of Claim 18 wherein the software application is a socket application.

1           20.     The system of Claim 11 wherein the information packet is addressed by the client  
2     to the first computing device, and wherein the first computing device is for receiving the  
3     information packet through the first local area network in response to the addressing.

1           21.     The system of Claim 11 wherein the first computing device is for receiving at least  
2     a portion of the state from the second computing device through a third local area network.

1           22.     The system of Claim 11 wherein the first local area network includes a hub.

1           23.     The system of Claim 11 wherein the first local area network includes a Layer 2  
2     switch, and wherein the Layer 2 switch is coupled through a router device to the global computer  
3     network.

- 1           24.    The system of Claim 11 wherein the first local area network includes a Layer 3  
2   switch, and wherein the Layer 3 switch is coupled to the global computer network.

1           25.    A method performed by a first computing device of an information processing  
2 system, the method comprising:  
3           through a first network, receiving an information packet originating from a client;  
4           in response to the information packet, identifying a computing device that stores a data  
5 structure of a connection with the client;  
6           if the identified computing device is the first computing device, performing an operation  
7 in response to the information packet; and  
8           if the identified computing device is a second computing device, outputting the  
9 information packet through a second network to the second computing device for performing the  
10 operation in response to the information packet, such that the output information packet bypasses  
11 the first network.

1           26.    The method of Claim 25 wherein the first computing device is a network interface  
2 card.

1           27.    The method of Claim 25 wherein the first network includes a local area network.

1           28.    The method of Claim 27 wherein the local area network is coupled through a  
2 global computer network to the client.

1           29.    The method of Claim 25 wherein the second network includes a local area  
2 network.

1           30.    The method of Claim 25 wherein the first network includes a first local area  
2 network, and wherein the second network includes a second local area network.

1           31.    The method of Claim 25 wherein the operation is part of a software application.

1           32.    The method of Claim 31 wherein the software application is a socket application.

1           33.    The method of Claim 25 wherein the information packet is addressed by the client  
2 to the first computing device, and wherein the method comprises:  
3           receiving the information packet through the first network in response to the addressing.

1           34.    The method of Claim 25 wherein the operation includes outputting a response  
2 packet to the client, and wherein the method comprises:  
3           if the identified computing device is the second computing device, outputting the  
4 information packet through the second network to the second computing device for outputting the  
5 response packet to the client, such that the output response packet bypasses the first computing  
6 device.

1           35.    A method performed by a first computing device of an information processing  
2 system, the method comprising:

3           through a first local area network, receiving an information packet from a global computer  
4 network; and

5           through a second local area network, in response to at least the information packet and a  
6 state of at least one of the first computing device and a second computing device, selectively  
7 outputting the information packet to the second computing device, such that the output  
8 information packet bypasses the first local area network.

1           36.    The method of Claim 35 wherein the first computing device is a network interface  
2 card.

1           37.    The method of Claim 35 wherein the information packet originates from a client,  
2 and wherein the first local area network is coupled through the global computer network to the  
3 client.

1           38.    The method of Claim 35 wherein the information packet originates from a client,  
2 and wherein the method comprises:

3           through the second local area network, in response to at least the information packet and  
4 the state, selectively outputting the information packet to the second computing device by  
5 outputting an encapsulated information packet to the second computing device, the encapsulated  
6 information packet including the information packet and a reference to a data structure of a  
7 connection with the client.

1           39.    The method of Claim 38 wherein the reference is included within a single header  
2 of the encapsulated information packet.



1           40.     The method of Claim 35 wherein the method comprises:

2           through the second local area network, in response to at least the information packet and  
3     the state, selectively outputting the information packet to the second computing device for  
4     performing an operation in response to the information packet.

1           41.     The method of Claim 40 wherein the information packet originates from a client,  
2     wherein the first local area network is coupled through the global computer network to the client,  
3     wherein the operation includes outputting a response packet to the client through the first local  
4     area network and the global computer network, and wherein the method comprises:

5           through the second local area network, in response to at least the information packet and  
6     the state, selectively outputting the information packet to the second computing device for  
7     outputting the response packet to the client, such that the output response packet bypasses the first  
8     computing device.

1           42.     The method of Claim 40 wherein the operation is part of a software application.

1           43.     The method of Claim 42 wherein the software application is a socket application.

1           44.     The method of Claim 35 wherein the information packet is addressed by the client  
2     to the first computing device, and wherein the method comprises:  
3           receiving the information packet through the first local area network in response to the  
4     addressing.

1           45.     The method of Claim 35 wherein the method comprises:  
2           receiving at least a portion of the state from the second computing device through a third  
3     local area network.

1           46.     The method of Claim 35 wherein the first local area network includes a hub.

1           47.    The method of Claim 35 wherein the first local area network includes a Layer 2  
2   switch, and wherein the Layer 2 switch is coupled through a router device to the global computer  
3   network.

1           48.    The method of Claim 35 wherein the first local area network includes a Layer 3  
2   switch, and wherein the Layer 3 switch is coupled to the global computer network.